

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	)	
	:	Examiner: Dennis W. Ruhl
KENICHI SAKUMA, et al.	)	
	:	Group Art Unit: 3629
Application No.: 09/921,569	)	
	:	
Filed: August 6, 2001	)	
	:	
For: EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT	)	
SYSTEM, EQUIPMENT	:	
MANAGEMENT APPARATUS,	)	
CONTROL METHOD THEREFOR,	:	
AND COMPUTER-READABLE	)	
MEMORY	:	April 25, 2008

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to further examination of the above-identified application, for which a Request for Continued Examination is being filed concurrently herewith, and in response to the final Office Action dated January 25, 2008, please amend the above-identified application as follows: